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A color correction technique involves sensing an illuminant and performing color correction based on the sensed illuminant. A color output device outputs an image with the color correction based on the sensed illuminant. The illuminant may be sensed in the lighting environment where the color output device is located or may be sensed in the lighting environment where the image is captured by a color digital camera. If an illuminant is sensed in a lighting environment where the image is captured and spectral reflectance data for an object corresponding to the image is detected, then the illuminant information and spectral reflectance data are embedded in the image which is transmitted over the Internet to a user computer system. Color correction software of the user computer system extracts the illuminant information and the spectral reflectance data and performs color correction for the image based on the extracted information. The color corrected image corresponding to the illuminant information is displayed or printed.